

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-11 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 PC-10 AID-20

OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 EB-11 DRC-01 /209 W

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R 311832Z JAN 74

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2549

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0346

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNDP, EAID

SUBJECT: UNDP 17 TH GOVERNING COUNCIL - UNDP'S AFRICA

BUREAU PROBLEM

REF: USUN 186

1. AFTER WEEK OF INTENSE BACKSTAGE DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATIONS, ISSUE OF REORGANIZING AFRICA BUREAU AGAIN TAKE UP BUDETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE AND RESOLVED IN SESSION LASTING BARELY 15 MINUTES. SOLUTION LEAVES BUREAU WITH ONE DIRECTOR (DOO KINGUE), STEDMAN IN SAME POSITION AS BEFORE WITH SAME RESPONSIBILITIES, AND LEAVES ADMINISTRATOR IN POSITION TO SEEK HIS GOAL OF RESHAPING OF BUREAU WITHOUT EMBARRASING AFRICANS.

2. FOLLOWING SESSION DESCRIBED REFTTEL, AFRICANS HAD NUMEROUS CAUCUSES AND IN MANY CASES SOUGHT ADVICE FROM CAPITALS. IT GREW INCREASINGLY APPARENT THAT AFRICANS COULD NOT ACCEPT DIVISION OF BUREAU WHICH WOULD SHAME DOO KINGUE AND PLACE STEDMAN IN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF HALF OF BUREAU, REGARDLESS OF COMSMETIC EFFECT OF DIRECTOR TITLE FOR DOO KINGUE AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR TITLE FOR STEDMAN. PETERSON MEANWHILE APPEARED TO BE AS FIRM AS EVER IN DETERMINATION TO EFFECT DESIRED CHANGES.

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3. US DELEGATION (KITCHEN) PLAYED DELICATE ROLE OF INTERMEDIARY AND HONEST BROKER BETWEEN TWO SIDES IN EFFORT

TO AVOID PUBLIC SPECTACLE OF HEAD-ON COLLISION. AS US GOOD FAITH BECAME APPARENT ORIGINAL AFRICAN SUSPICION, THAT US HAD ENGINEERED PROPOSED BUREAU SPLIT TO PROMOTE US NATIONAL STEDMAN TO NEW LEVEL IN UNDP, WAS DISPELLED AND TRUST INCREASED. US DEL WAS ALSO ABLE TO CONVINCE PETERSON THAT DESPITE VALIDITY OF HIS NEED AND WISH TO IMPROVE FUNCTIONING OF BUREAU, HIS APPROACH COULD ONLY FAIL IN FACE OF AFRICAN SENSITIVITIES.

4. FINALLY AFTER A TENSE SERIES OF EXCHANGES LASTING RIGHT UP UNTIL THE HOUR BEFORE SUBJECT TAKEN UP AGAIN IN BFCOMMITTEE, ADMINISTRATOR MADE VERY BRIEF STATEMENT IN WHICH HE (A) WITHDREW ALL THE PROPOSALS PREVIOUSLY PUT FORWARD BY HIM IN DP/29 ADD. 1 AND IN BFCOMMITTEE; (B) STATED HE WOULD PROCEED WITH STRENGTHENING OF BUREAU IN LIGHT OF OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND WOULD MAKE WHATEVER ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE REQUIRED. HE WOULD WORK WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CONSENSUS, KEEP MEMBERS INFORMED AND SEEK COUNSEL INFORMALLY FROM MEMBERS WHEN IT SEEMED NECESSARY AND ; (C) HE WOULD DEVOTE A LARGE PART OF HIS OWN TIME TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE BUREAU

5. NIGERIA, SPEAKING ON BEHALF AFRICANS, THANKED THE ADMINISTRATOR IN VERY BRIEF REMARKS. BFCOMMITTEE REPORT WILL MERELY TAKE NOTE OF ADMINISTRATOR'S STATEMENT IN THE RESUMED DISCUSSION AND OF MEMBERS' VIEWS EXPRESSED IN COMMITTEE. PLENARY APPROVAL EXPECTED TO BE PRO FORMA.

6. AFRICANS HAVE INDICATED PRIVATELY THAT THEY ARE NOT COMMITTED TO DEFENSE OF DOO KINGUE PER SE AND THAT IF ADMINISTRATOR DOES NOT RENEW HIS CONTRACT AT END OF MARCH THERE WILL BE NO EXPLOSION. WHETHER PETERSON WILL FIRE DOO KINGUE REMAINS TO BE SEEN. ALSO, WHAT SPECIFIC STEPS HE WILL NOT TAKE TO UTILIZE STEDMAN'S TALENTS AND WHAT OTHER MEASURES HE WILL DEVISE ARE NOT YET CLEAR. MEANWHILE A CRISIS HAS BEEN AVERTED AND US HAD GAINED CONSIDERABLE STATURE WITH BOTH AFRICANS AND ADMINISTRATION WITHOUT ANY INTERVENTION DURING COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS.

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